

Production of Aluminium at BALCO

4677. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of production of aluminium at BALCO due to non-operation of plant after disinvestment; and

(b) how Government propose to deal with the hostile attitude of the Chhattisgarh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) The loss of production of Aluminium at Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) due to non-operation of plant at Korba, after disinvestment is estimated to be Rs. 70 Crores upto 15th April, 2001.

(b) Efforts have been made by Government to explain the rationale and process of disinvestment. The Government has also mediated on BALCO strike with the trade unions and the representative of the State Government of Chhattisgarh.

New rail line from Dalli-Rajhara to Dantewara

†4678. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for laying of a new rail line from Dalli-Rajhara to Dantewara, via Baster, is under consideration, so as to connect Durg with Visakhapatnam;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) whether any proposal for laying of broad gauge line from Raipur to Jabalpur, *via* Kumhari-Karvactha-Manda, is also under consideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when action would be taken on these proposals, in the public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, work of construction of new line from Dallirajahara to Jagdalpur which will be passing *via* Baster is already included in the budget.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The work of construction of a new line between Dallirajahara and Jagdalpur *via* Rowghat is being done on cost sharing basis between Ministry of Railways, State Government of Madhya Pradesh, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the first phase of this railway line from Dallirajahara to Rowghat is to be constructed entirely at the cost of SAIL, as the line is primarily meant for transportation of iron ore to the Bhilai Steel Plant. The work will be taken up as soon as SAIL deposit the cost of work with the Railways, once they receive the requisite environmental clearances.

As regards connecting Jabalpur with Raipur by a new line, two separate surveys have been taken up for provision of new lines between Jabalpur and Bilaspur and between Jabalpur and Rajnandgaon. Further consideration of these proposals would be possible once their survey reports become available.